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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

April - 1980

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

April 1980

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

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EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION

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Volume 11 Number 4

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

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1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

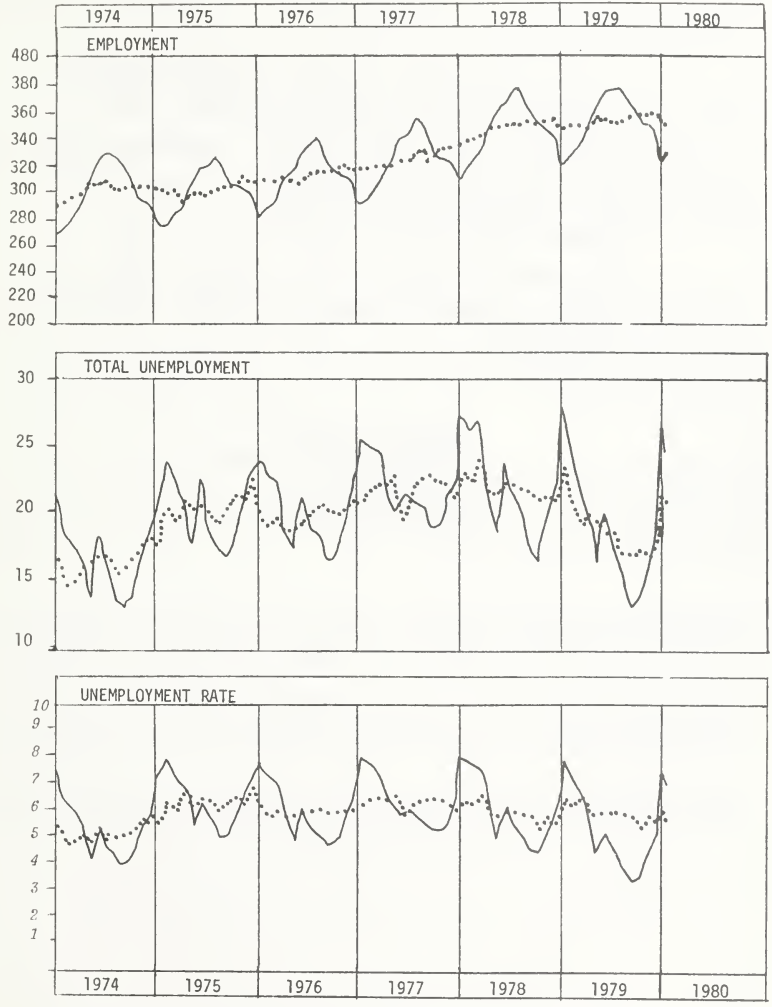
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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* STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS *

Montana's civilian labor force rose by 10,100 from February to March. The total for March was 363,700 which is three percent higher than the civilian labor force count for March, 1979 of 353,200.

Reflecting the same type of movement, the statewide employment count reached 340,000 in March. This compares to 328,700 in February and 322,400 in January, 1980. A total of 330,700 employed persons was recorded for March, 1979. Unemployment totals dropped to 23,700 in Montana for March. One month earlier, the unemployment count was 24,900, and in January, a total of 26,400 was recorded. Last year at this time, unemployment was 22,500.

The unemployment rate dropped from 7.0% in February to 6.5% for March. This reflected very little change from one year earlier when the unemployment rate was calculated at 6.4%. Montana's economy is again highlighted by the activity reported in the lumber and wood industry during this reporting period. Construction is pretty much at a standstill at this time, yet some construction projects are starting as the weather warms up. Activity appears to be picking up in the retail and service industries. Some movement is also seen in the agriculture industry as the farmers start spring work.

Lumber mills are making announcements that they will cease production. Some mills have closed and others are laying off crews, cutting hours, or both. Most of the layoffs and closures are for indefinite periods of time. A mill in Missoula, which reported a few months ago that it would close, is gradually letting its workers go. About one-third of its crew is still working. In Libby, a sawmill also reported some permanent layoffs. About 300 layoffs in Montana mills were reported as permanent.

Most of Montana's construction in March is ongoing construction, yet some new construction is starting on new buildings and highway construction is starting up in a number of areas on bids that were let in the fall. Very few new housing starts have been reported with interest rates as high as they are.

Local offices are reporting employment activity in the retail and service industries, as they received calls for restaurant help, clerks, material handlers and motel help. Calls were also received for farm help as the farmers are starting spring work.

Employment activity is expected to look up during the next few weeks-as outdoor work will begin with the advent of warmer weather. No major improvement in the lumber and wood industry is foreseen in the near future.

GREAT FALLS SMSA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	33.0	32.0	33.4	1.0	-.4
Employment	30.8	29.6	31.0	1.2	-.2
Unemployment	2.2	2.4	2.4	-0.2	-0.2
Unemployment Rate	*6.7*	*7.5*	*7.3*	*-0.8*	*-0.6*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Two labor disputes were settled in March. Forty workers agreed on a new contract with an oil refinery after about 30 days off the job. A cola bottler has been involved in a labor dispute with 30 union employees that was resolved after two weeks of dispute.

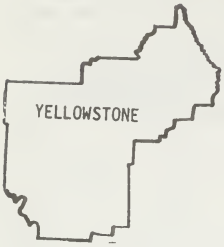
Heavy construction projects are numerous this summer in the Great Falls SMSA. Work has resumed on the new Sixth Street Bridge over the Sun River, and the 5.2 million dollar First Avenue North Bridge expansion is progressing so well that the completion date has been moved up one year to this August. The regional airport released 602 thousand dollars worth of repairs to the general aviation area and one runway for summer work. Several Great Falls based construction companies have been awarded highway projects in the Great Falls area and statewide. Construction of a two store, three million dollar shopping center on Tenth Avenue South will get underway late in April. The downtown parking ramp construction is being hampered by an unplanned, unstable pocket of fill material that will cause additional cost and construction time; thus the Christmas shopping rush opening date may be delayed.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cont.)

City officials plan to request an Urban Development Action Grant of 662,000 dollars for developers hoping to remodel a downtown theater into office and retail space. The grant would be used as a low interest loan to the developers.

Employment was paced by the new shopping center that hired 60-80 persons for their April opening. Agricultural and service demands have been steady through the reporting period at the Job Service office. A firm marketing agricultural equipment and agricultural equipment and machinery went out of business, resulting in 50 persons being laid off.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	56.5	55.6	53.1	.9	3.4
Employment	53.5	52.5	50.7	1.0	2.8
Unemployment	3.0	3.1	2.4	(.1)	.6
Unemployment Rate	*3.3*	*5.6*	*4.5*	*(.3)*	*.8*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Billings SMSA reports a number of stores going out of business, along with a large number of layoffs. At the same time, there are some new businesses opening in the area. As in other areas, there was very little construction reported.

An electric company left 12 people without work when it went bankrupt. A jewelry store closed and left 6 persons out of work. The same number of persons were affected when a food wholesaler went out of business. A car dealership has dropped its main line of cars and remained open with a foreign car dealership.

Layoffs include those from businesses cutting payrolls due to little activity. A packing plant in Billings laid off 29 persons because of too much beef and not enough buyers. Three construction workers were laid off along with a $15,000 per year office manager at a local construction company, and there is anticipation of laying off a $25,000 per year production manager. A modular home builder has laid off 30 persons due to a lack of orders. Four other businesses were reported closing, leaving 35 persons out of work.

BILLINGS SMSA (Cont.)

The only construction reported during this month was a discount store under construction. Also, a sandwich shop is to open in mid-May, which will employ 30-35 persons. The discount store has a target date of May 1st for its opening. Some other new businesses in the area include two clothing stores, a shoe store, a bike shop and a pizza and sandwich business.

No new activity was reported for the agriculture industry during this period. Architects, construction firms and real estate companies are holding tight, with hope for the future.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	32.4	31.8	33.3	.6	-.9
Employment	30.4	29.6	31.1	.8	-.7
Unemployment	2.0	2.2	2.2	-.2	-.2
Unemployment Rate	*6.1*	*6.8*	*6.7*	*-.7*	*-.6*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Actions taken by lumber mills in the LMA this period highlight economic activity. An indefinite layoff of 61 workers at a Dillon lumber mill was made since only 20% of the mill's production has been sold in the past six weeks. Fifty contract loggers for the mill are also on indefinite layoff. Market conditions are being evaluated on a week-to-week basis for when production might begin again. A mill in the Deer Lodge area is still operating, but only on a day-to-day basis. A mill in Philipsburg remains closed after nearly a year.

Construction activity in the LMA was slow this period, but several highway projects will be beginning soon as the weather warms up. Only one permit was issued in March for a single family dwelling unit in Butte. Total permit valuations of $1.5 million for March exceed those of last year, however. A permit for over $1.1 million was issued for remodeling of classrooms at a Butte college. Up to $50,000 may be granted for a feasibility study on installing hydroelectric generators at the Clark Canyon Dam near Dillon. Also in Dillon, construction of a shopping center has been postponed due to high interest rates. Four workers were hired to demolish condemned buildings, and construction will begin soon on an addition to a local restaurant and also a saddle shop.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA (Cont.)

Layoffs and hiring trends went opposite directions in the LMA this period. While a hiring freeze was lifted by a city/county government, an energy research facility imposed a hiring freeze until budget cuts are finalized. Twelve employees of a local talc mill were recalled to work after being laid off since September. In Butte, a local miner hired some new employees--but only to fill in for workers on vacation, and another walkout by 130 union employees curtailed work at a construction site.

Retail, service, and agriculture activity was slow this period throughout the LMA. Few conventions, meetings, or sports events have kept service industries sluggish in Butte. Feeding and calving were the major activities in agriculture and weather conditions delayed field work.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	26.1	25.9	25.8	0.2	0.3
Employment	24.4	24.0	24.5	0.4	-0.1
Unemployment	1.7	1.9	1.3	-0.2	0.4
Unemployment Rate	*6.5*	*7.5*	*5.1*	*-1.0*	*1.4*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Tourism trade activity in the LMA is a great concern for the area merchants. A survey of the Livingston area merchants revealed a general resign to a slow tourist season this summer, yet some express optimism that trade may be actually better than last year. Yellowstone Park's new concessionaire is emphasizing regional and in-state promotion this year.

BOZEMAN LMA (Cont.)

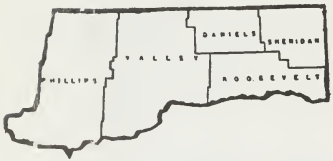
Several expansion and improvement construction projects are planned for the park facilities, but the availability of money is not definite for several of the projects. Tourism for Yellowstone Park is ahead of last year for the first two months, with an increase in recreational activities, such as cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

Exploration for oil and gas deposits is increasing in the LMA. Approximately 15% of Gallatin County is under lease by major oil companies; any successful exploration is being kept quiet by the oil companies.

Employee layoff is occurring in the lumber, ski, and railroad industries. In the Three Forks vicinity, between 70 and 90 jobs were terminated by the closure of a railroad company, while most of the lumber mills in the area are completely closed down or maintaining a small skeleton crew. Gallatin National Forest is putting 30 million board feet of timber up for sale this year, but most mills can't even bid on it because they already have more than they want. Ski resorts are engaged in their seasonal wind down, thus workers are being released.

In Bozeman, the new mall construction is progressing on schedule for the projected May completion. Of the $524,000 worth of building permits issued in March, sixty percent were issued for individual stores designing to locate in the mall. Bozeman's overall construction activity is not keeping pace with last year's development, due to high interest rates. The most noticeably reduced construction activity is housing, with only one single dwelling building permit issued in March, compared to six just one year ago.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	17.2	16.5	16.2	.7	1.0
Employment	16.5	15.7	15.4	.8	1.1
Unemployment	.7	.8	.8	-.1	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*4.3*	*4.9*	*4.8*	*-.6*	*-.5*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Several layoffs made this period highlight economic activity in the LMA. Thirty workers were laid off at a meat packing plant and operations have been halted, due to high interest rates on money used to purchase cattle. Six workers were laid off by an automobile dealership and more layoffs are anticipated. Thirty workers were laid off by an area mine and 10 layoffs are expected when oil rig crews finish work in the area. Oil exploration was slowed this period by the spring thaw and 2-to-3 crews are expected in the area soon.

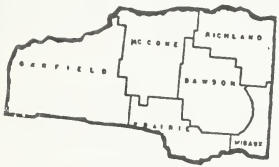
Hours worked in construction occupations increased this period and the number of employed is slowly increasing. However, several carpenters are expected to be laid off soon, since building construction is at a virtual standstill. Most activity so far has been limited to excavation and utility work. Hiring will begin soon, as concrete work on tribal housing units gets started. A concrete-mix firm has begun calling back employees and is expected to have most employees back this month. Other callbacks were made for workers in masonry, oil exploration, electrical, mechanic, and maintenance occupations.

Agriculture hiring was light this period, but should pick up soon as farmers begin field work. Retail sales were slow also, but are expected to increase as seasonal farm workers begin to locate in the area. Approximately 100 technical employees of an aircraft manufacturer will be locating in the Glasgow area. temporarily to begin testing aircraft.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)



	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	14.2	13.8	13.8	.4	.4
Employment	13.7	13.2	13.3	.5	.4
Unemployment	.5	.6	.5	-.1	--
Unemployment Rate	*3.6*	*4.1*	*3.6*	*-.5*	--

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activity highlights the LMA's economy this period. Claims for unemployment insurance from construction workers dropped in number this period, as the weather warmed and workers began picking up more hours. Though some are back to work now-mostly on interior projects-many contractors expect less outdoor work than in previous summers and will probably operate with fewer workers. The extent to which activity does pick up this year will be limited by interest rates and inflation. Work did continue this period on the Wibaux Highway project, and a local power company is adding five employees to a pipeline crew. Work should begin very soon on a Glendive shopping center with over 117,000 square feet of space. Developers are hoping to open by Christmas.

Oil site construction activity continued on a limited basis this period. Oil exploration continued also, but was slowed by spring thaw. Local Job Service offices report more people coming into the area looking for oil field work; however, with no new rigs locating in the area, referrals for these jobs are few.

Three new retail establishments opened this period in Glendive: a discount department store, a used clothing store, and a book/music store. Activity in retail, wholesale, and service areas ranged from average to slow for this time of year. Calving and lambing were the main activities in agriculture this period and the labor supply equaled demand.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	12.4	12.0	12.0	0.4	0.4
Employment	11.7	11.2	11.4	0.5	0.3
Unemployment	0.7	0.8	0.6	-0.1	0.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.7*	*6.5*	*5.2*	*-0.8*	*0.5*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Members of Montana's Crow Indian tribe approved a long term coal sale, worth at least $29 million, to a major oil company. If approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Interior Department, the deal will mean an immediate $6.2 million payment to the tribe. To encourage mining the coal in a timely fashion, the tribe will receive at least $3 million a year by 1986, regardless of whether only coal is mined.

Educators are planning to fulfill requirements to increase Hardin Community College's limited accreditation to that of a fully accredited educational institution within 2-3 years. Currently, about 100 students are enrolled in the school, which was orginally formed for those area residents unable to adjust to the changes in life style and competition of the larger city colleges.

A coal mine in the Red Lodge area has resumed production, after enlarging the conveyor system to carry the coal out of the mine. Construction activity in Red Lodge includes developing a 30-unit motel, with a projected late June completion date.

The state Coal Board has approved a planning grant for Red Lodge. The planning grant will address the upgrading of the town's water and sewer system, orderly development of area adjacent to the city, growth management and industrial development. Coal severance tax money is also being considered for several highway projects in the Hardin area.

Final approval for a planned coal boom town in Big Horn County was released by state officials. Spring Creek will provide housing and services for miners working in at least five coal strip mines in the area. Developers predict the town will have a population of 3,000 by 1985.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	13.0	12.5	12.5	.5	.5
Employment	12.2	11.7	11.8	.5	.4
Unemployment	.8	.8	.7	--	.1
Unemployment Rate	*6.1*	*6.7*	*5.6*	*-.6*	*.5*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activity highlights the area economy this period. Most construction projects are down at this time, and one local builder was forced to lay off help when anticipated jobs fell through. However, the prospects for the near future look positive - three major projects will be starting this spring.

Hiring in nonagriculture occupations was very slow this period. Hiring was good in agriculture occupations with several farmers looking for good help, especially tractor operators and livestock feeders. A local manufacturing plant which laid off employees last November, informed those workers if they have not been rehired by now they will not be. However, with two manufacturing firms starting up, some of these unemployed workers may be able to find jobs.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	27.3	26.6	27.4	.7	-.1
Employment	25.8	25.0	25.8	.8	--
Unemployment	1.5	1.6	1.6	-.1	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.5*	*6.0*	*5.7*	*-.5*	*-.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As in other labor market areas, the events at Helena LMA lumber mills highlight economic activity this period. Over 200 mill workers were laid off indefinitely or temporarily following statewide trends. Shipments 50% below normal forced a Townsend mill to lay off indefinitely 100 workers; 70 workers were laid off for at least a week in Silver City, and 33 were laid off in White Sulphur Springs.

Construction activity picked up somewhat this period as the weather warmed, but the outlook for the summer and fall is that activity will be slow. Bright spots for construction include approximately $5 million of work on I-15 near Wolf Creek and continued work on the Capitol complex. No major projects were announced this period and union representatives report their benches are full.

There was some hiring activity this period at the state and local government levels--especially in clerical and computer programming occupations; however, there was no hiring at the federal level. Little hiring occurred in agricultural occupations--calving and lambing has almost ended and field work has not yet begun. At the retail level, several one-person shops have opened, but there have also been numerous small businesses closing in Helena this year.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	39.6	38.4	37.2	1.2	2.4
Employment	35.3	34.4	33.4	.9	1.9
Unemployment	4.3	4.0	3.8	.3	.5
Unemployment Rate	*10.9*	*10.3*	*10.2*	.6	.7

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity in the Kalispell LMA is highlighted by the layoffs in the lumber and wood industry. Very little activity was reported in the construction and manufacturing industries. Business is starting to pick up in the retail and service industries, with agriculture beginning to perk up also.

The LMA reported a total of 1,500 layoffs in the lumber and wood industry. Of this total, there were 200 permanent layoffs. Kalispell had 320 persons laid off in this industry, while Libby and Polson reported 1,100 and 80 layoffs respectively. The layoffs are beginning to affect other industries within the LMA. The only construction consists of the courthouse addition in Polson and bridge construction for the Forest Service in Libby. In Polson, a modular home builder has laid off some of his workers due to lack of orders.

Due to an adequate inventory and a lack of orders, a stove shop in Polson and a steel fabrication plant have laid off all but supervisory staff. About 35 workers were affected. A beehive manufacturer has trimmed its night shift and laid off about six persons because orders for their product have picked up.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

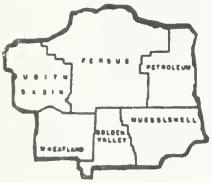
Business is beginning to accelerate in some of the retail and service industries. Orders for bartenders, waitresses, and office clerks are being filled. Activity is also starting up in agriculture, where seed potato growers have started sorting and shipping. Other area farmers needed extra help for the start of spring field work.

Conditions are expected to remain the same in the lumber and wood industry for a while. Activity should increase in the retail, service and agricultural industries during the next few weeks.

LEWISTOWN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)



	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	10.8	10.3	10.4	0.5	0.4
Employment	10.3	9.7	9.9	0.6	0.4
Unemployment	0.5	0.6	0.5	-0.1	0.0
Unemployment Rate	*4.3*	*5.7*	*5.0*	*1.4*	*-0.7*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

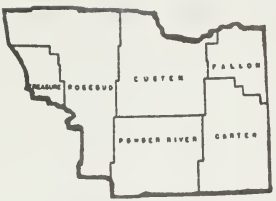
The agricultural sector of the economy appears to be the only sector with normal activity and employment. Construction work is mainly small repair and remodeling projects. Lumber mills are, for the most part, closed down indefinitely. Some trade and service industries have reduced their business hours.

Fergus County Commissioners announced remodeling plans for the fairgrounds. Approximately $320,000 will be spent on a new exhibition building, grandstands, and improvement of the water and sewer lines.

LEWISTOWN LMA (cont.)

New businesses and corporations in the LMA are slightly ahead for the January through March quarter, with 33 total as compared with 24 at this time one year ago. Among new businesses in Lewistown are a lumber yard and a roller skating rink.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	14.6	13.9	14.4	0.7	0.2
Employment	13.9	13.2	13.6	0.7	0.3
Unemployment	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-0.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.0*	*5.3*	*5.2*	*-0.3*	*-0.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction recalls are beginning for many ongoing projects such as highway projects, education facilities construction, and storm-sewer lines development. Road construction projects employment will be limited because no new major highway development programs are scheduled for the LMA. Two upcoming projects to be built in Miles City this summer are a $75,000 swimming pool and approximately $300,000 courthouse annex. The city council will apply to the state Coal Board to help in street improvements. A project started in March, with a 14 month construction time frame, is a new water treatment facility for Miles City.

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

Construction activity in Colstrip is slowly increasing toward full scale construction to house 1,000 workers and a trailer court is being built with a projected May completion. A two month project for a complete overhaul of power plants one and two started in April; peak employment will require about 200 workers. In Colstrip, the trade and service industries are experiencing difficulties in hiring and retaining employees due to construction employment opportunities. In Miles City a shortage is noted in farm/ranch workers and fast-food restaurant workers.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	March 1980	Feb. 1980	March 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	March 1979
Civilian Labor Force	49.6	48.4	47.4	1.2	2.2
Employment	45.6	44.1	43.6	1.5	2.0
Unemployment	4.0	4.3	3.8	-.3	.2
Unemployment Rate	*8.0%*	*8.9%*	*8.1%*	*-.9*	*-.1*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Sawmill and logging layoffs highlight economic activity in the Missoula LMA for this reporting period. The only construction reported is in the Hamilton area. Most other economic activity is stable, except for agriculture, which is beginning to show more activity as the weather changes.

Spring breakup is evident as 95% of the logging industry is curtailed, although this is not entirely due to spring breakup. The sawmills have cut production to the point that there is no need for more logging. Some mills are closing, some are laying the biggest part of their crews off and others are cutting working hours so they won't have to lay workers off altogether. One mill is in the process of a permanent closure. Two thirds of their crew is now looking for work. The rest of the mills and and logging companies have indefinite plans as to reopening or re-employment of the laid off crews.

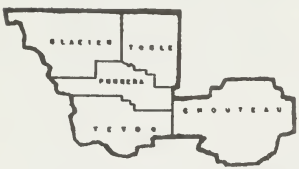
MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

A big percentage of the economy in this LMA is dependent on the lumber and woods industry, therefore, it is causing ill effects in the area. Employment levels continue to drop in this area.

Construction reported during this period consists of three new stores under construction in a Hamilton complex. Two other stores are nearing completion as they are stocking shelves in preparation for opening their doors. An announcement was made for a new discount department store in the Hamilton area. Employment levels in the construction industry are said to be picking up as the weather improves.

The other major industries in this area have reported stable employment levels, except for agriculture where area farmers have begun looking for help to start spring work.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

(In Thousands)

	March 1980	Feb. 1980	March 1979	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1980	March 1979
Civilian Labor Force	16.9	16.0	16.3	.9	.6
Employment	15.8	14.9	15.3	.9	.5
Unemployment	1.1	1.1	1.0	-	.1
Unemployment Rate	*6.4%*	*7.0%*	*6.2%*	*-.6*	*.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity remains relatively stable for this reporting period. Some employment activity was reported as the weather continues to improve.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA

There were calls for restaurant help, office clerks, material handlers and farm help during this month. Trade and service sectors, as well as farm workers are starting their spring work in preparation for the coming summer months.

Construction continues in Cut Bank on the new motel. In Shelby there is preparation and ground work started for the new hospital. Oilfield activity is reported as stable. There should be more employment activity reported in the coming weeks as the weather warms up.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

March 1980

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Insured Unemployment*
Non-White	*14.8%*
Female	*18.3%*
Youth	*6.9%*
Over 45	*21.9%*

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S. [1/]

All Items

(1967 = 100)

	1978		1979		1980	
	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W
January	187.2	187.1	204.7	204.7	233.2	233.3
February	188.4	188.4	207.1	207.1	236.4	236.5
March	189.8	189.7	209.1	209.3	239.8	239.9
April	191.5	191.4	211.5	211.8		
May	193.3	193.3	214.1	214.3		
June	195.3	195.3	216.6	216.9		
July	196.7	196.7	218.9	219.4		
August	197.8	197.7	221.1	221.5		
September	199.3	199.1	223.4	223.7		
October	200.9	200.7	225.4	225.6		
November	202.0	201.8	227.5	227.6		
December	202.9	202.9	229.9	230.0		
AVERAGE	195.4	195.3	217.4	217.7		

[1/] *The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of goods and services in major expenditure groups. The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) covers about 40 percent of the total noninstitutional population. The CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-W) covers about 80 percent of the total noninstitutional population, including wage earners and clerical workers, salaried workers, the self-employed, retirees, and the unemployed.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2/]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1/] Montana	Percent[1/] U. S.	
1978								
January	337.1	309.7	287.7	22.0	27.4	*8.1*	*7.0*	*
February	339.5	313.1	289.2	23.9	26.4	*7.8*	*6.9*	*
March	350.8	323.7	295.1	28.6	27.1	*7.7*	*6.6*	*
April	361.8	340.0	304.9	35.1	21.8	*6.0*	*5.8*	*
May	369.1	350.2	314.1	36.1	18.9	*5.1*	*5.5*	.1
June	388.1	364.1	322.9	41.2	24.0	*6.2*	*6.2*	.4
July	393.9	372.1	328.0	44.1	21.8	*5.5*	*6.3*	.2
August	395.4	375.1	327.9	47.2	20.3	*5.1*	*5.8*	.1
September	383.4	365.6	328.8	36.8	17.8	*4.6*	*6.0*	.1
October	369.6	352.9	321.6	31.3	16.7	*4.5*	*5.4*	.1
November	365.0	344.9	318.0	26.9	20.1	*5.5*	*5.5*	*
December	362.3	340.5	317.4	23.1	21.8	*6.0*	*5.6*	*
Avg.	368.0	346.0	313.0	33.0	22.0	*6.0*	*6.0*	.1
1979								
January	348.8	320.8	299.5	21.3	28.0	*8.0*	*6.4*	*
February	347.9	323.2	300.0	23.2	24.7	*7.1*	*6.4*	1.8
March	353.2	330.7	302.9	27.8	22.5	*6.4*	*6.1*	*
April	363.5	343.3	309.1	34.2	20.2	*5.6*	*5.5*	*
May	372.0	355.3	320.0	35.3	16.7	*4.5*	*5.2*	*
June	390.6	370.4	330.2	40.2	20.2	*5.2*	*6.0*	*
July	390.6	372.4	329.4	43.0	18.2	*4.7*	*5.8*	*
August	391.5	376.0	330.0	46.0	15.5	*4.0*	*5.9*	*
September	380.8	367.5	331.6	35.9	13.3	*3.5*	*5.6*	*
October	371.1	357.3	326.8	30.5	13.8	*3.7*	*5.6*	*
November	365.5	349.8	323.6	26.2	15.7	*4.3*	*5.6*	*
December	364.3	345.3	322.7	22.6	19.0	*5.2*	*5.6*	*
Avg.	370.0	351.0	318.8	32.2	19.0	*5.1*	*5.8*	.2
*1980								
January	348.8	322.4	301.6	20.8	26.4	*7.6*	*6.8*	*
February	353.6	328.7	306.1	22.6	24.9	*7.0*	*6.8*	1.1
March	363.7	340.0	312.8	27.2	23.7	*6.5*	*6.6*	.7
April	*376.6*	*352.9*	*319.5*	*33.4*	*23.7*	*6.3*		.2
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1978								
January	32.2	29.4	28.5	.9	2.8	*8.7*	*8.1*	*
February	32.5	29.8	28.9	.9	2.7	*8.4*	*7.8*	*
March	33.2	30.6	29.5	1.1	2.6	*7.8*	*7.7*	*
April	33.9	31.9	30.5	1.4	2.0	*5.9*	*6.0*	*
May	34.5	32.6	31.2	1.4	1.9	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
June	36.2	33.4	31.8	1.6	2.8	*7.6*	*6.2*	*
July	35.1	32.8	31.1	1.7	2.3	*6.6*	*5.5*	*
August	35.8	33.5	31.6	1.9	2.3	*6.3*	*5.1*	*
September	35.3	33.1	31.6	1.5	2.2	*6.2*	*4.6*	*
October	34.4	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.0	*5.8*	*4.5*	*
November	34.3	31.8	30.7	1.1	2.5	*7.3*	*5.5*	*
December	34.2	31.6	30.7	..9	2.6	*7.6*	*6.0*	*
Avg.	34.3	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.4	*7.0*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	33.5	30.4	29.6	.8	3.1	*9.3*	*8.0*	*
February	33.1	30.4	29.5	.9	2.7	*8.1*	*7.1*	*
March	33.4	31.0	29.9	1.1	2.4	*7.3*	*6.4*	*
April	33.8	31.7	30.3	1.4	2.1	*6.3*	*5.6*	*
May	34.2	32.4	31.0	1.4	1.8	*5.3*	*4.5*	*
June	35.8	33.3	31.7	1.6	2.5	*6.9*	*5.2*	*
July	35.2	33.1	31.4	1.7	2.1	*6.1*	*4.7*	*
August	34.9	33.0	31.2	1.8	1.9	*5.3*	*4.0*	*
September	34.4	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.6	*4.6*	*3.5*	*
October	33.6	32.0	30.8	1.2	1.6	*4.7*	*3.7*	*
November	33.5	31.7	30.7	1.0	1.8	*5.3*	*4.3*	*
December	33.1	31.2	30.3	.9	1.9	*5.6*	*5.2*	*
Avg.	34.0	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.1	*6.2*	*5.1*	*
1980								
January	32.2	29.5	28.7	.8	2.7	*8.3*	*7.6*	*
February	32.0	29.6	28.7	.9	2.4	*7.5*	*7.0*	*
March	33.0	30.8	29.7	1.1	2.2	*6.7*	*6.5*	*
April	*33.5*	*31.4*	*30.1*	*1.3*	*2.1*	*6.3*	*6.3*	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2/]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1/] County	Percent[1/] State	
1978								
January	50.4	47.2	46.2	1.0	3.2	*6.4*	*8.1*	*
February	50.4	47.4	46.3	1.1	3.0	*5.9*	*7.8*	*
March	51.6	48.3	47.0	1.3	3.3	*6.3*	*7.7*	*
April	52.0	49.7	48.1	1.6	2.3	*4.4*	*6.0*	*
May	52.8	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.1	*4.0*	*5.1*	*
June	55.1	52.4	50.5	1.9	2.7	*4.9*	*6.2*	*
July	54.6	52.2	50.2	2.0	2.4	*4.3*	*5.5*	*
August	55.1	52.8	50.6	2.2	2.3	*4.2*	*5.1*	*
September	55.8	53.7	52.0	1.7	2.1	*3.7*	*4.6*	*
October	54.4	52.7	51.3	1.4	1.7	*3.1*	*4.5*	*
November	54.5	52.0	50.8	1.2	2.5	*4.6*	*5.5*	*
December	54.6	52.1	51.0	1.1	2.5	*4.7*	*6.0*	*
Avg.	53.4	50.9	49.4	1.5	2.5	*4.7*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	53.2	50.0	49.0	1.0	3.2	*6.1*	*8.0*	*
February	52.8	50.1	49.0	1.1	2.7	*5.1*	*7.1*	*
March	53.1	50.7	49.4	1.3	2.4	*4.5*	*6.4*	*
April	54.1	52.1	50.5	1.6	2.0	*3.8*	*5.6*	*
May	54.8	53.1	51.5	1.6	1.7	*3.1*	*4.5*	*
June	56.8	54.7	52.9	1.8	2.1	*3.7*	*5.2*	*
July	57.1	55.2	53.2	2.0	1.9	*3.3*	*4.7*	*
August	56.9	55.2	53.1	2.1	1.7	*2.9*	*4.0*	*
September	57.1	55.6	54.0	1.6	1.5	*2.5*	*3.5*	*
October	55.9	54.5	53.1	1.4	1.4	*2.6*	*3.7*	*
November	56.1	54.3	53.1	1.2	1.8	*3.1*	*4.3*	*
December	56.2	54.1	53.1	1.0	2.1	*3.7*	*5.2*	*
Avg.	55.3	53.3	51.8	1.5	2.0	*3.7*	*6.1*	*
1980								
January	55.0	51.9	50.9	1.0	3.1	*5.6*	*7.6*	*
February	55.6	52.5	51.5	1.0	3.1	*5.6*	*7.0*	.7
March	56.5	53.5	52.3	1.2	3.0	*5.3*	*6.5*	.3
April	*57.0*	*54.5*	*53.0*	*1.5*	*2.5*	*4.5*	*6.3*	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	363.7	353.6	353.2	10.1	10.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	340.0	328.7	330.7	11.3	9.3
Persons Employed in Agriculture	27.2	22.6	27.8	4.6	-.6
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	23.7	24.9	22.5	-1.2	1.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	6.5	7.0	6.4	-.5	.1
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	6.5	6.6	6.3	-.1	.2
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	279.3	276.8	271.1	2.5	8.2
MANUFACTURING	25.1	25.1	25.9	0	-.8
Durable Goods	16.4	16.1	17.1	.3	-.7
24 Lumber and Wood Products	9.7	9.6	10.5	.1	-.8
33 Primary Metal Industries	3.2	3.0	3.2	.2	0
Other Durable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.3	0	.2
Nondurable Goods	8.7	9.0	8.8	-.3	-.1
20 Food and Kindred Products	3.7	4.1	3.9	-.4	-.2
27 Printing and Publishing	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.6	1.5	1.6	.1	0
MINING	7.3	7.2	7.1	.1	.2
10 Metal Mining	2.0	1.8	2.0	.2	0
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	2.2	2.2	2.0	0	.2
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	3.1	3.2	3.1	-.1	0
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	12.2	11.3	11.8	.9	.4
15 General Building Contractors	3.9	3.9	4.3	0	-.4
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	2.9	2.4	2.5	.5	.4
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.4	5.0	5.0	.4	.4
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	22.5	22.5	22.0	0	.5
40 Railroad Transportation	6.9	6.9	6.9	0	0
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.6	6.6	6.5	0	.1
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	8.9	9.0	8.6	-.1	.3
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	72.1	71.7	70.4	.4	1.7
Wholesale Trade	17.2	17.4	16.6	-.2	.6
Retail Trade	54.9	54.3	53.8	.6	1.1
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.1	8.1	8.2	0	-.1
54 Food Stores	7.6	7.7	7.5	-.1	.1
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.7	8.7	8.6	0	.1
58 Eating and Drinking Places	19.7	19.1	18.9	.6	.8
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	10.8	10.7	10.7	.1	.1
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12.7	12.7	12.4	0	.3
SERVICES	55.8	54.9	52.4	.9	3.4
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.3	6.2	5.9	.1	.4
72 Personal Services	2.5	2.4	2.5	.1	0
80 Medical and other Health Services	18.3	18.0	17.1	.3	1.2
Other Services	28.7	28.3	26.9	.4	1.8
GOVERNMENT	71.7	71.4	69.0	.3	2.7
91 Federal Government	11.3	11.3	12.4	0	-1.1
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.2	8.3	8.4	-.1	-.2
92 Other State Government	10.7	10.6	11.0	.1	-.3
93 Local Education	27.0	26.9	24.2	.1	2.8
93 Other Local Government	14.5	14.4	12.9	.1	1.6

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(Establishment Data in italics)

TABLE V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

March 1980

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS 1/	33.0	32.0	33.4	1.0	-.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	30.8	29.6	31.0	1.2	-.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.1	.9	1.1	.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.2	2.4	2.4	-.2	-.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted2/	*6.7*	*7.5*	*7.3*	*-.8*	*-.6*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted2/	*6.0*	*6.6*	*6.5*	*-.6*	*-.5*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*29.3*	*28.9*	*29.4*	*.4*	*-.1*
Manufacturing	*1.6*	*1.6*	*1.6*	*0*	*0*
Contract Construction	*1.4*	*1.1*	*1.5*	*.3*	*-.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
Trade	*9.4*	*9.6*	*9.5*	*-.2*	*-.1*
Wholesale Trade	*2.8*	*2.9*	*2.7*	*-.1*	*.1*
Retail Trade	*6.6*	*6.7*	*6.8*	*-.1*	*-.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.9*	*6.8*	*6.7*	*.1*	*.2*
Government	*6.0*	*5.9*	*6.0*	*.1*	*0*
Federal Government	*1.9*	*1.8*	*1.9*	*.1*	*0*
State and Local Government	*4.1*	*4.1*	*4.1*	*0*	*0*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Current month preliminary

Revised to 1979 Benchmarks

TABLE VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

March 1980

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	56.5	55.6	53.1	.9	3.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	53.5	52.5	50.7	1.0	2.8
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.2	1.0	1.3	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	3.0	3.1	2.4	-.1	.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.3*	*5.6*	*4.5*	*-.3*	*.8*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.7*	*4.7*	*3.9*	*0*	*.8*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*48.1*	*48.1*	*45.5*	*0*	*2.6*
Manufacturing	*4.2*	*4.7*	*4.0*	*-.5*	*.2*
Contract Construction	*2.6*	*2.4*	*2.2*	*.2*	*.4*
Transportation and Public Utilties	*4.9*	*4.9*	*4.5*	*0*	*.4*
Trade	*16.1*	*16.1*	*15.4*	*0*	*.7*
Wholesale Trade	*5.8*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*0*	*.6*
Retail Trade	*10.3*	*10.3*	*10.2*	*0*	*.1*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.3*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*10.2*	*9.9*	*9.5*	*.3*	*.7*
Government	*7.8*	*7.8*	*7.6*	*0*	*.2*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*0*	*0*
State and Local Government	*6.3*	*6.3*	*6.1*	*0*	*.2*

[1] *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

[2] *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Current month preliminary

Revised to 1979 Benchmarks

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1980
STATEWIDE	348.8	353.6	363.7	322.4	328.7	340.0	26.4	24.9	23.7	*7.6*	*7.0*	*6.5*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	32.2	32.0	33.0	29.5	29.6	30.8	2.7	2.4	2.2	*8.3*	*7.5*	*6.7*
BILLINGS SMSA	55.0	55.6	56.5	51.9	52.5	53.5	3.1	3.1	3.0	*5.6*	*5.6*	*5.3*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	261.6	266.0	274.2	241.0	246.6	255.7	20.6	19.4	18.5	*7.9*	*7.3*	*6.7*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	31.0	31.8	32.4	28.8	29.6	30.4	2.2	2.2	2.0	*7.0*	*6.8*	*6.1*
BOZEMAN	25.0	25.9	26.1	23.2	24.0	24.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	*7.2*	*7.5*	*6.5*
GLASGOW	16.0	16.5	17.2	15.1	15.7	16.5	.9	.8	.7	*5.7*	*4.9*	*4.3*
GLENDIVE	13.4	13.8	14.2	12.9	13.2	13.7	.5	.6	.5	*3.9*	*4.1*	*3.6*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.7	12.0	12.4	10.9	11.2	11.7	.8	.8	.7	*7.1*	*6.5*	*5.7*
HAVRE	12.2	12.5	13.0	11.3	11.7	12.2	.9	.8	.8	*7.6*	*6.7*	*6.1*
HELENA	26.6	26.6	27.3	24.7	25.0	25.8	1.9	1.6	1.5	*7.0*	*6.0*	*5.5*
KALISPELL	38.1	38.4	39.6	33.9	34.4	35.3	4.2	4.0	4.3	*11.0*	*10.3*	*10.9*
LEWISTOWN	10.0	10.3	10.8	9.3	9.7	10.3	.7	.6	.5	*6.7*	*5.7*	*4.3*
MILES CITY	13.6	13.9	14.6	12.8	13.2	13.9	.8	.7	.7	*5.9*	*5.3*	*5.0*
MISSOULA	48.2	48.4	49.6	43.6	44.1	45.6	4.6	4.3	4.0	*9.5*	*8.9*	*8.0*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	15.6	16.0	16.9	14.3	14.9	15.8	1.3	1.1	1.1	*8.2*	*7.0*	*6.4*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Mar. 1980	Mar. 1979	Percent Change 1979-1980	Mar. 1980	Mar. 1980	Percent Change 1979-1980	Mar. 1980	Mar. 1980	Net Change 1979-1980	Mar. 1980	Mar. 1980	Net Change 1979-1980
STATEWIDE	363.7	353.2	*3.0*	340.0	330.7	*2.8*	23.7	22.5	*1.2*	6.5	6.4	*.1*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.0	33.4	*-1.2*	30.8	31.0	*-.6*	2.2	2.4	*-.2*	6.7	7.3	*-.6*
BILLINGS SMSA	56.5	53.1	*6.4*	53.5	50.7	*5.5*	3.0	2.4	*.6*	5.3	4.5	*.8*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	274.2	266.7	*2.8*	255.7	249.0	*2.7*	18.5	17.7	*.8*	6.7	6.6	*.1*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	32.4	33.3	*-2.7*	30.4	31.1	*-2.3*	2.0	2.2	*-.2*	6.1	6.7	*-.6*
BOZEMAN	26.1	25.8	*1.2*	24.4	24.5	*-.4*	1.7	1.3	*.4*	6.5	5.1	*1.4*
GLASGOW	17.2	16.2	*6.2*	16.5	15.4	*7.1*	.7	.8	*-.1*	4.3	4.8	*-.5*
GLENDIVE	14.2	13.8	*2.9*	13.7	13.3	*3.0*	.5	.5	*0*	3.6	3.6	*0*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.4	12.0	*3.3*	11.7	11.4	*2.6*	.7	.6	*.1*	5.7	5.2	*.5*
HAVRE	13.0	12.5	*-4.0*	12.2	11.8	*3.4*	.8	.7	*.1*	6.1	5.6	*.5*
HELENA	27.3	27.4	*-.4*	25.8	25.8	*0*	1.5	1.6	*-.1*	5.5	5.7	*-.2*
KALISPELL	39.6	37.2	*6.5*	35.3	33.4	*5.7*	4.3	3.8	*.5*	10.9	10.2	*.7*
LEWISTOWN	10.8	10.4	*-3.8*	10.3	9.9	*4.0*	.5	.5	*0*	4.3	5.0	*-.7*
MILES CITY	14.6	14.4	*1.4*	13.9	13.6	*2.2*	.7	.8	*-.1*	5.0	5.2	*-.2*
MISSOULA	49.6	47.4	*4.6*	45.6	43.6	*4.6*	4.0	3.8	*.2*	8.0	8.1	*-.1*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.9	16.3	*3.7*	15.8	15.3	*3.3*	1.1	1.0	*.1*	6.4	6.2	*.2*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX-A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MARCH 1980

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	363731	339986	23745	6.5
CASCADE	32043	30814	2229	6.7
YELLOWSTONE	56543	53527	3016	5.3
BEAVERHEAD	3766	3602	164	4.4
BIG HORN	5803	5416	387	6.7
BLAINE	3182	2912	270	8.5
BROADWATER	1536	1455	81	5.3
CARBON	3126	2942	184	5.9
CARTER	836	745	91	10.9
CHOUTEAU	2794	2722	72	2.6
CUSTER	5758	5505	253	4.4
DANIELS	1402	1379	23	1.6
DAWSON	5422	5214	208	3.8
DEER LODGE	4986	4659	327	6.6
FALLON	2368	2302	66	2.8
FERGUS	5832	5627	265	4.5
FLATHEAD	24156	21816	2340	9.7
GALLATIN	19215	18087	1128	5.9
GARFIELD	791	743	48	6.1
GLACIER	5127	4578	549	10.7
GOLDEN VALLEY	376	353	22	5.9
GRANITE	1053	948	105	10.0
HILL	8735	8239	496	5.7
JEFFERSON	2185	2022	163	7.5
JUDITH BASIN	1159	1043	116	10.0
LAKE	8090	7397	683	8.5
LEWIS AND CLARK	23576	22321	1255	5.3
LIBERTY	1120	1088	32	2.9
LINCOLN	7402	6108	1294	17.5
MCCONE	1173	1150	23	2.0
MADISON	2214	2101	113	5.1
MEAGHER	963	909	54	5.6
MINERAL	1836	1618	218	11.9
MISSOULA	35699	33529	2470	6.9
MUSSELSHELL	1964	1928	36	1.8
PARK	5876	5370	505	8.6
PETROLEUM	304	295	9	3.0
PHILLIPS	2550	2431	119	4.7
PONDERA	3539	3355	183	5.2
POWDER RIVER	1093	1067	31	2.8
POWELL	3535	3349	186	5.3
PRAIRIE	757	713	39	5.2
RAVALLI	7946	7102	844	10.6
RICHLAND	5442	5263	174	3.2
ROOSEVELT	5855	5586	279	4.8
ROSEBUD	4179	3906	273	6.5
SANDERS	3761	3311	450	12.0
SHERIDAN	2860	2820	40	1.4
SILVER BOW	16833	15754	1079	6.4
STILLWATER	1994	1901	93	4.7
SWEET GRASS	1502	1461	41	2.7
TETON	2723	2585	138	5.1
TOOLE	2668	2525	143	5.4
TREASURE	403	389	14	3.5
VALLEY	4575	4293	282	6.2
WHEATLAND	1038	1067	21	1.9
WIBAUX	653	633	20	3.1

TABLE IX-B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
FEBRUARY 1980

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	353574	328717	24857	7.0
CASCADE	31966	29570	2396	7.5
YELLOWSTONE	58602	55516	3086	5.6
BEAVERHEAD	3626	3425	201	5.5
BIG HORN	5579	5168	411	7.4
BLAINE	3023	2735	288	9.5
BROADWATER	1468	1355	113	7.7
CARBON	2993	2789	204	6.8
CARTER	785	668	117	14.9
CHOUTEAU	2582	2508	74	2.9
CUSTER	5524	5281	243	4.4
DANIELS	1329	1305	24	1.8
DAWSON	5275	5050	225	4.3
DEER LODGE	4982	4575	407	8.2
FALLON	2299	2225	74	3.2
FERGUS	5663	5303	365	6.4
FLATHEAD	23720	21390	2330	9.8
GALLATIN	19179	17818	1361	7.1
GARFIELD	752	673	79	10.5
GLACIER	5013	4450	563	11.2
GOLDEN VALLEY	344	318	26	7.6
GRANITE	1022	918	104	10.2
HILL	8447	7956	491	5.8
JEFFERSON	2110	1922	188	8.9
JUDITH BASIN	1050	932	118	11.2
LAKE	7578	6973	605	8.0
LEWIS AND CLARK	22998	21703	1295	5.6
LIBERTY	1038	981	57	5.5
LINCOLN	7062	6034	1028	14.6
MC CONE	1068	1046	22	2.1
MADISON	2082	1963	119	5.7
MEAGHER	888	846	42	4.7
MINERAL	1775	1544	231	13.0
MISSOULA	35430	32709	2721	7.7
MUSSELSHELL	1861	1815	46	2.5
PARK	5818	5291	527	9.1
PETROLEUM	274	266	8	2.9
PHILLIPS	2388	2257	131	5.5
PONDERA	3417	3286	131	5.3
POWDER RIVER	985	956	29	2.9
POWELL	3531	3345	186	5.3
PRAIRIE	704	661	43	6.1
RAVALLI	7573	6660	913	12.1
RICHLAND	5358	5182	176	3.3
ROOSEVELT	5762	5454	308	5.3
ROSEBUD	4003	3747	256	6.4
SANDERS	3568	3139	429	12.0
SHERIDAN	2691	2646	45	1.7
SILVER BOW	16532	15385	1147	6.9
STILLWATER	2097	1983	114	6.2
SWEET GRASS	1397	1359	38	2.7
TETON	2552	2390	162	6.3
TOOLE	2495	2343	147	5.9
TREASURE	379	362	17	4.5
VALLEY	4351	4056	295	6.8
WHEATLAND	1054	1033	21	2.0
WIBAUX	617	600	17	2.8

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:		Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
	Mar. 1980 1/	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1980	Mar. 1980		Feb. 1980	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	130.8	130.9	124.2	-.1	6.6	279.3	*46.8*	276.8	*47.3*
Manufacturing	3.3	3.4	3.0	-.1	.3	25.1	*13.1*	25.1	*13.4*
Mining	.4	.4	.4	.0	.0	7.3	*5.8*	7.2	*5.9*
Contract Construction	1.4	1.4	1.3	.0	.1	12.2	*11.1*	11.3	*12.0*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.1	4.2	4.2	-.1	-.1	22.5	*18.3*	22.5	*18.6*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	35.8	35.9	35.7	-.1	.1	72.1	*49.6*	71.7	*50.1*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.5	8.4	8.3	.1	.2	12.7	*66.8*	12.7	*66.5*
Services	34.1	34.2	35.0	-.1	-.9	55.8	*61.2*	54.9	*62.4*
Government 2/	43.2	43.0	36.2	.2	7.0	71.7	*60.4*	71.4	*60.2*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.
2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1979

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	126.7	122.4	124.2	126.5	128.1	129.1	127.7	128.5	130.4	130.3	132.6	132.7	128.2
Manufacturing.....	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2
Mining.....	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction.....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.5
Transport. & Public Utilities..	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	38.7	35.6	35.7	35.7	36.5	36.8	36.3	36.0	37.0	36.9	36.8	37.2	36.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate...	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4
Services.....	35.0	34.8	35.0	34.7	35.0	34.9	34.1	34.3	34.7	35.1	35.3	35.2	34.8
Government.....	35.7	34.8	36.2	38.8	38.9	38.9	38.7	38.8	40.3	39.9	42.5	42.5	38.8

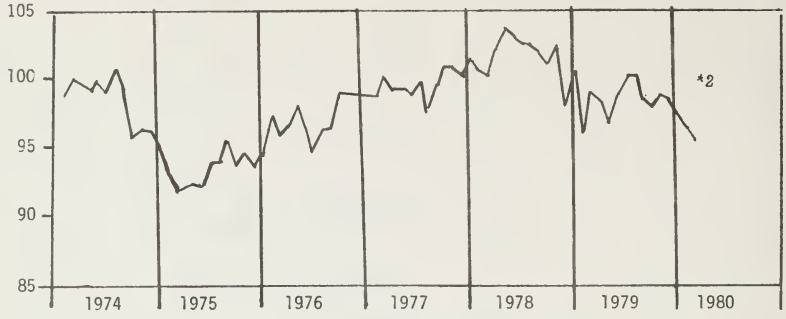
1980

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary.	133.0	132.9	130.8
Manufacturing.....	3.4	3.3	3.3
Mining.....	.5	.5	.4
Contract Construction.....	1.4	1.4	1.4
Transport. & Public Utilities.	4.2	4.2	4.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	36.5	36.5	35.8
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	8.4	8.4	8.5
Services	36.2	36.2	34.1
Government.....	42.5	42.5	43.2

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1979 Benchmark

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS



INDEX 1972 = 100

MONTHLY FIGURES
of COMPOSITE INDEX

1978	
January	100.6
Feburary	*100.2*
March	102.2
April	102.8
May	103.1
1979	
January	*96.1*
February	98.6
March	*98.2*
April	*96.4*
May	98.5
June	100.4
July	*100.3*
August	*98.9*
September	*98.4*
October	99.2
November	*98.5*
December	*97.8*
1980	
January	*96.7*
February	***95.6***

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

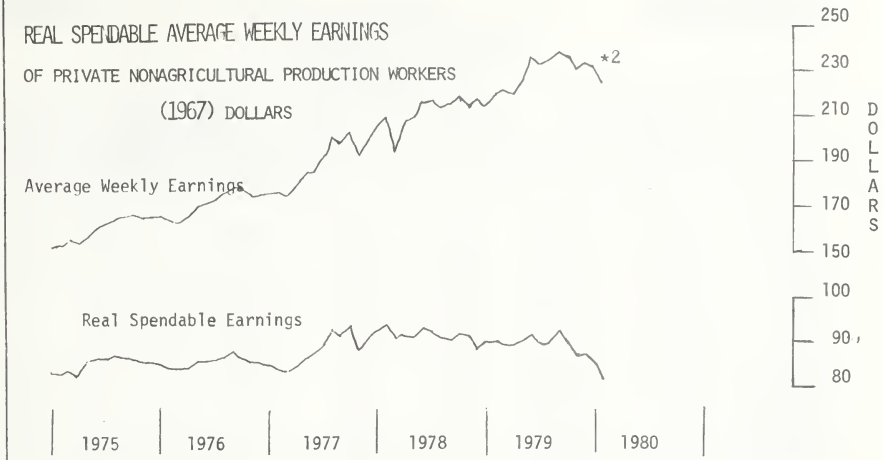
The six economic indicators used in computing the composite index reflected mixed movement for February. February's composite index of 95.6 is slightly lower than January's calculation of 96.7. This is the fourth month in a row where a decline was recorded.

Some of the indicators with positive movements include: a rise in the manufacturing accession rate, a drop of approximately 600 weekly initial claims and building permits rose from January to February. Those showing negative movements were the manufacturing layoff rate, average weekly hours in manufacturing and manufacturing employment.

Components of Composite Index

Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits; and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.*
** *Figures in italics indicate declines from previous month.*



	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	224.93	232.60	219.57
3/ Taxes Withheld	33.87	35.79	34.01
Spendable Earnings	191.06	196.81	185.56
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	110.27	112.45	95.96
Real Spendable Earnings	80.79	84.36	89.60

1979	1) Average Weekly Earnings	2) Real Spendable Earnings
Jan.	215.42	89.20
Feb.	219.57	89.60
Mar.	221.43	89.29
Apr.	220.68	88.10
May	225.42	88.52
June	236.99	91.26
July	233.87	89.41
Aug.	234.99	88.73
Sept.	238.74	91.96
Oct.	236.90	89.02
Nov.	230.62	86.23
Dec.	233.24	86.12
1980		
Jan.	232.60	84.36
Feb.	224.93	80.79

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Gross average weekly earnings continued in a downward movement through February. A total of $224.93 was registered, a decline of $7.67 since January. Along with a drop in wages, the Consumer Price Index continued to climb at a rate of 1.4% per month, which is another big factor in the calculations.

The figures reflected a negative movement in real spendable earnings, as it moved from $84.36 in January to $80.79 in February, 1980. We can see the real affect of inflation when we compare these figures to February, 1979. Gross earnings of $219.57 gives an increase of 6% over the year, while real spendable earnings dropped by 11% during the same time.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.*
1/ Average Weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers
2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.
3/ Taxes computed on family with four exemptions.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1978								
January	358.4	335.5	302.1	33.4	22.9	*6.4*	*6.3*	*
February	360.0	337.4	303.8	33.6	22.6	*6.3*	*6.1*	*
March	364.2	340.1	306.6	33.5	24.1	*6.6*	*6.2*	*
April	366.1	344.3	312.0	32.3	21.8	*6.0*	*6.1*	*
May	367.7	346.1	313.0	33.1	21.6	*5.9*	*6.1*	.1
June	368.9	346.6	313.5	33.1	22.3	*6.0*	*5.8*	.4
July	372.2	349.9	316.8	33.1	22.3	*6.0*	*6.1*	.2
August	371.9	349.8	316.9	32.9	22.1	*5.9*	*5.9*	.1
September	372.6	351.0	318.3	32.7	21.6	*5.8*	*5.9*	.1
October	370.7	350.5	317.9	32.6	20.2	*5.4*	*5.8*	.1
November	371.8	350.4	317.8	32.6	21.4	*5.8*	*5.8*	*
December	371.5	350.3	317.6	32.7	21.2	*5.7*	*5.9*	*
Avg.	368.0	346.0	313.0	33.0	22.0	*6.0*	*6.0*	.1
1979								
January	370.3	346.8	314.1	32.7	23.5	*6.4*	*5.8*	*
February	368.4	347.5	314.8	32.7	20.9	*5.7*	*5.7*	1.8
March	366.8	347.3	314.7	32.6	19.5	*5.3*	*5.7*	*
April	367.9	347.6	315.2	32.4	20.3	*5.5*	*5.8*	*
May	370.5	351.1	318.9	32.2	19.4	*5.2*	*5.8*	*
June	371.5	352.9	320.8	32.1	18.6	*5.0*	*5.7*	*
July	368.7	350.0	318.1	31.9	18.7	*5.1*	*5.7*	*
August	368.0	350.7	318.9	31.8	17.3	*4.7*	*5.9*	*
September	369.9	352.8	320.9	31.9	17.1	*4.6*	*5.8*	*
October	372.2	354.9	322.9	32.0	17.3	*4.7*	*5.9*	*
November	372.5	355.4	323.4	32.0	17.1	*4.6*	*5.8*	*
December	373.5	355.1	323.0	32.1	18.4	*4.9*	*5.9*	*
Avg.	370.0	351.0	318.8	32.2	19.0	*5.1*	*5.8*	.2
1980								
January	370.3	348.4	316.3	32.1	21.9	*5.9*	*6.2*	*
February	374.1	353.1	321.1	32.0	21.0	*5.6*	*6.0*	1.1
March	*377.2*	*356.5*	*324.7*	*31.8*	*20.7*	*5.5*	*6.2*	.7
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1978								
January	33.3	30.9	29.6	1.3	2.4	7.2	6.4	*
February	34.2	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.6	7.5	6.3	*
March	34.0	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.4	7.1	6.6	*
April	34.3	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.1	6.3	6.0	*
May	34.5	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.3	6.6	5.9	*
June	34.7	32.3	31.0	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.0	*
July	34.2	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.0	*
August	34.7	32.3	31.0	1.3	2.4	6.9	5.9	*
September	34.7	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.5	7.1	5.8	*
October	34.3	32.1	30.8	1.3	2.2	6.4	5.4	*
November	34.2	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.5	7.4	5.8	*
December	34.6	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.6	7.5	5.7	*
Avg.	34.3	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.4	7.0	6.0	*
1979								
January	34.6	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.7	7.8	6.4	*
February	34.7	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.5	7.2	5.7	*
March	34.2	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.2	6.5	5.3	*
April	34.3	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.3	6.7	5.5	*
May	34.2	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.2	6.4	5.2	*
June	34.3	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.0	*
July	34.2	32.1	30.8	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.1	*
August	33.8	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.0	5.9	4.7	*
September	33.7	31.8	20.5	1.3	1.9	5.5	4.6	*
October	33.5	31.7	30.4	1.3	1.8	5.3	4.7	*
November	33.5	31.7	30.4	1.3	1.8	5.4	4.6	*
December	33.4	31.6	30.3	1.3	1.8	5.5	4.9	
Avg.	34.0	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.1	*
1980								
January	33.3	31.0	29.7	1.3	2.3	6.8	5.9	*
February	33.6	31.4	30.1	1.3	2.2	6.6	5.6	*
March	33.8	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.0	6.0	5.5	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1978								
January	52.0	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.6	5.1	6.4	*
February	52.3	49.7	48.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	*
March	53.1	50.1	48.6	1.5	3.0	5.6	6.6	*
April	52.8	50.4	48.9	1.5	2.4	4.6	6.0	*
May	53.3	50.8	49.3	1.5	2.5	4.7	5.9	*
June	53.6	51.1	49.6	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
July	53.3	50.9	49.4	1.5	2.4	4.6	6.0	*
August	54.0	51.5	50.0	1.5	2.5	4.6	5.9	*
September	54.4	52.0	50.5	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.8	*
October	54.0	51.9	50.4	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.4	*
November	54.4	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.7	4.9	5.8	*
December	54.2	51.8	50.3	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.7	*
Avg.	53.4	50.9	49.4	1.5	2.5	4.7	6.0	*
1979								
January	54.8	52.2	50.7	1.5	2.6	4.8	6.4	*
February	54.7	52.4	50.9	1.5	2.3	4.2	5.7	*
March	54.5	52.4	50.9	1.5	2.1	3.9	5.3	*
April	55.0	52.9	51.4	1.5	2.1	3.9	5.5	*
May	55.3	53.2	51.7	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.2	*
June	55.2	53.3	51.8	1.5	1.9	3.4	5.0	*
July	55.9	53.9	52.4	1.5	2.0	3.5	5.1	*
August	55.8	53.9	52.4	1.5	1.9	3.3	4.7	*
September	55.5	53.7	52.2	1.5	1.8	3.3	4.6	*
October	55.5	53.7	52.2	1.5	1.8	3.2	4.7	*
November	55.9	54.0	52.5	1.5	1.9	3.5	4.6	*
December	55.8	53.9	52.4	1.5	1.9	3.4	4.9	*
Avg.	55.3	53.3	51.8	1.5	2.0	3.7	5.1	*
1980								
January	56.6	54.1	52.6	1.5	2.5	4.4	5.9	*
February	57.5	54.8	53.3	1.5	2.7	4.7	5.6	.7
March	58.0	55.3	53.8	1.5	2.7	4.7	5.5	.3
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1979 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1980	Mar. 1979
TOTAL PRIVATE	$225.85	224.93	221.04	35.4	35.2	36.3	6.38	6.39	6.10
MANUFACTURING	374.53	355.75	339.08	43.0	42.2	41.2	8.71	8.43	8.23
Durable Goods	384.56	394.70	335.34	43.9	44.1	40.5	8.76	8.95	8.28
Primary Metal Industries	391.27	403.34	379.09	41.1	40.7	40.2	9.52	9.91	9.43
Nondurable Goods	356.04	279.17	346.72	41.4	38.4	42.7	8.60	7.27	8.12
Food and Kindred Products	290.38	286.01	270.86	43.6	43.4	43.2	6.66	6.59	6.27
MINING	412.20	445.52	453.02	45.8	46.7	48.4	9.00	9.54	9.36
Metal Mining	413.83	413.83	449.85	33.4	33.4	40.6	12.39	12.39	11.08
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	355.99	372.11	348.95	36.4	37.1	35.9	9.78	10.03	9.97
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	337.03	333.32	329.58	42.5	42.3	42.2	7.93	7.88	7.81
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	374.49	361.61	319.50	50.2	49.4	42.6	7.46	7.32	7.50
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	169.88	167.26	177.32	30.5	30.3	34.1	5.57	5.52	5.20
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	156.83	156.37	143.22	33.8	33.7	34.1	4.64	4.64	4.20
SERVICES	148.52	150.72	138.51	34.3	34.1	33.7	4.33	4.42	4.11

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATES									SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Recalls			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1979
MANUFACTURING	0.6	1.0	2.2	0.4	0.8	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.5	4.9	1.0	1.8	0.6	0.6	1.0	2.3	0.3	0.5
Durable Goods	0.3	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.7	2.7	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.3
Primary Metal Industries	0.7	1.5	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.5	3.0	5.4	2.7	1.6	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.8	1.8	0.8
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.4	3.2	1.2	1.3	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	10.6	1.9	3.2	1.2	1.7	1.9	5.3	0.1	0.9
MINING	7.7	1.4	8.0	6.5	0.0	4.7	0.8	0.0	3.0	11.8	1.1	6.6	6.8	1.0	5.2	0.4	0.0	0.8
Metal Mining	1.3	4.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.7	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1958.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggrigate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year. Foreign corporation classification has been added and are considered established corporations from other states registered to do business in Montana. County tabulation is not possible, only industry structure is known.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	March 1980	March 1979	Year to Date 1980	Year to Date 1979
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	23	39	101	116
MINING	20	24	75	49
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	36	87	151	202
MANUFACTURING	18	30	74	70
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	16	22	69	70
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	79	124	353	325
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	33	55	137	154
SERVICES NON-PROFIT SERVICES	119 (39)	145 (19)	456 (105)	409 (59)
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	1	5	59	21
STATE TOTAL	345	531	1475	1416

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS March 1980	March 1979	Year to Date 1980	1979
STATE OF MONTANA	345	531	1475	1416
GREAT FALLS SMSA	28	40	113	107
BILLINGS SMSA	52	90	215	245
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS MULTI-COUNTY	26	INA	110	INA
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	24	37	100	94
Beaverhead	4	7	19	16
Deer Lodge	3	4	7	11
Granite	2	0	6	6
Madison	1	4	11	13
Powell	4	1	13	2
Silver Bow	10	21	44	46
BOZEMAN LMA	24	50	99	112
Gallatin	16	40	70	84
Meagher	3	1	5	3
Park	5	9	24	25
GLASGOW LMA	12	14	46	49
Daniels	0	1	2	4
Phillips	3	4	9	11
Roosevelt	4	0	14	8
Sheridan	2	1	10	7
Valley	3	8	11	19
GLENDIVE LMA	22	44	91	83
Dawson	5	11	27	19
Garfield	0	1	3	2
McCone	2	1	13	2
Prairie	1	0	5	3
Richland	14	29	43	54
Wibaux	0	2	1	3
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	9	15	34	44
Big Horn	2	5	10	11
Carbon	3	5	8	20
Stillwater	3	2	12	6
Sweet Grass	1	3	4	7
HAVRE LMA	9	8	36	34
Blaine	1	2	7	6
Hill	3	3	23	24
Liberty	5	3	6	4
HELENA LMA	20	33	93	113
Broadwater	0	4	1	0
Jefferson	0	6	6	12
Lewis and Clark	20	23	86	91
KALISPELL LMA	45	70	183	171
Flathead	31	49	121	113
Lake	7	10	33	25
Lincoln	7	11	29	33
LEWISTOWN LMA	9	6	33	24
Fergus	6	4	18	15
Golden Valley	0	1	2	1
Judith Basin	0	1	3	4
Musselshell	3	0	6	3
Petroleum	0	0	1	0
Wheatland	0	0	0	1
MILES CITY LMA	11	11	49	41
Carter	1	0	3	0
Custer	4	5	12	20
Fallon	3	3	14	10
Powder River	0	0	3	1
Rosebud	3	3	16	9
Treasure	0	0	1	1
MISSOULA LMA	39	81	201	238
Mineral	1	2	5	5
Missoula	30	61	150	178
Ravalli	6	15	31	44
Sanders	2	3	15	11
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	15	26	74	61
Choteau	3	10	14	18
Glacier	4	2	24	10
Pondera	4	4	14	13
Teton	2	3	4	5
Toole	2	7	18	15

Sources of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

EMPLOYER CLASSIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE RATING

Effective January 1, 1980, Montana instituted the "reserve ratio" experience rating system. Under this system each subject employer (excluding some nonprofit organizations and all government entities) is assigned an "experience factor" which is contributions paid minus benefits charged on each employer's account since July 1, 1976, divided by the employer's average annual taxable payroll for the 3 fiscal years immediately preceding the computation date. Each employer with a positive "experience factor" is designated as an eligible employer and those with a negative "experience factor" are designated as deficit employers. Schedules are then prepared listing all eligible and deficit employers in inverse numerical order of their experience factors as well as the cumulative taxable payrolls for all of those employers. The cumulative taxable payroll amounts are then segregated into groups that will yield approximately the average tax rate according to the tax schedule assigned for that particular taxable year. Each group will be identified by the rate class listed on the schedule and each employer is assigned that contribution rate opposite their rate class for the tax schedule in effect for the taxable year.

The rate schedule for each calendar year is assigned based upon the ratio of the trust fund balance as of December 31 prior to the rate year to total wages in covered employment for the previous fiscal year.

Schedules of contribution rates are shown on the following page. The rate schedule assigned for taxable year 1980 is Schedule IX. As can be noted, the minimum ratio of fund to total wages must be .0050 to assign Schedule IX and the approximate average tax yield will be 2.9% for that schedule. Eligible employers will be assigned contribution rates of 1.7% to 3.5% and deficit employers 3.8% to 4.4% based on their respective rate class assignment. Unrated employers (those with less than 3 years of experience) are all assigned a rate of 3.7%.

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTION RATES

Minimum Ratio of Fund to Total Wages / Average Tax Rate	Sched. I (.0150) 1.3	Sched. II (.0145) 1.5	Sched. III (.0140) 1.7	Sched. IV (.0130) 1.9	Sched. V (.0120) 2.1	Sched. VI (.0110) 2.3	Sched. VII (.0095) 2.5	Sched. VIII (.0075) 2.7	Sched. IX (.005) 2.9	Sched. X (.....) 3.1
Rate Class	CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYERS									
1	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%
2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2
3	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5
4	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.8
5	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.1
6	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4
7	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.7
CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR UNRATED EMPLOYERS:	2.1%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%	3.9%
Rate Class	CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR DEFICIT EMPLOYERS									
1	2.2%	2.4%	2.6%	2.8%	3.0%	3.2%	3.4%	3.6%	3.8%	4.0%
2	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2
3	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4
4	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.4
5	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4
6	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

TA5-1598 DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
MARCH 1980

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	339	30,779.43
BIGHORN	501	45,074.87
BLAINE	369	32,768.21
BROADWATER	142	12,817.17
CARBON	404	39,995.00
CARTER	24	2,175.00
CASCADE	5,027	473,688.26
CHOUTEAU	86	7,082.16
CUSTER	508	46,268.64
DANIELS	29	2,765.00
DAWSON	322	33,079.34
DEER LODGE	680	60,479.30
FALLON	66	6,567.60
FERGUS	579	50,729.57
FLATHEAD	4,961	445,693.38
GALLATIN	2,820	258,069.00
GARFIELD	8	952.00
GLACIER	919	77,627.36
GOLDEN VALLEY	18	1,438.00
GRANITE	141	11,412.96
HILL	949	83,971.81
JEFFERSON	348	37,778.69
JUDITH BASIN	46	4,012.60
LAKE	1,277	116,497.11
LEWIS AND CLARK	2,492	232,944.97
LIBERTY	57	6,099.00
LINCOLN	2,656	247,391.77
MCCONE	42	2,746.00
MADISON	181	14,294.32
MEAGHER	57	4,740.56
MINERAL	467	44,380.65
MISSOULA	5,337	477,144.41
MUSSELSHELL	83	8,801.00
PARK	829	70,571.70
PETROLEUM	13	911.75
PHILLIPS	227	21,179.24
PONDERA	362	35,662.96
POWDER RIVER	54	5,469.00
POWELL	325	27,722.60
PRAIRIE	89	8,039.00
RAVALLI	1,765	154,091.95
RICHLAND	254	23,080.30
ROOSEVELT	265	21,322.24
ROSEBUD	434	38,333.41
SANDERS	1,039	96,766.10
SHERIDAN	53	4,564.00
SILVER BOW	2,482	233,469.46
STILLWATER	259	24,734.00
SWEET GRASS	61	6,576.82
TETON	220	20,955.40
TOOLE	362	35,204.20
TREASURE	13	1,437.00
VALLEY	557	52,401.26
WHEATLAND	20	2,093.00
WIBAUX	27	2,296.00
YELLOWSTONE	6,844	686,990.47
INTRASTATE	48,489	4,494,761.90
INTERSTATE	1,589	155,319.42
TOTAL	50,078	4,650,081.32

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1980 THRU MARCH 1980

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,022	92,776.65
BIGHORN	1,606	141,891.15
BLAINE	1,106	97,650.97
BROADWATER	605	59,728.50
CARBON	1,286	128,422.39
CARTER	71	6,354.52
CASCADE	16,127	1,529,406.54
CHOUTEAU	275	21,405.52
CUSTER	1,407	129,509.18
DANIELS	81	7,085.26
DAWSON	956	94,053.05
DEER LODGE	2,247	201,639.33
FALLON	217	20,502.60
FERGUS	1,827	163,485.08
FLATHEAD	13,807	1,227,981.57
GALLATIN	8,103	736,351.78
GARFIELD	22	2,544.00
GLACIER	2,923	228,967.12
GOLDEN VALLEY	45	4,199.00
GRANITE	452	35,793.32
HILL	3,008	253,779.84
JEFFERSON	1,022	107,953.79
JUDITH BASIN	124	10,925.54
LAKE	3,842	344,069.67
LEWIS AND CLARK	7,854	728,755.48
LIBERTY	204	20,546.80
LINCOLN	6,493	573,204.87
MCCONE	102	7,154.00
MADISON	424	34,612.99
MEAGHER	171	13,786.30
MINERAL	1,385	127,048.02
MISSOULA	17,162	1,535,888.87
MUSSELSHELL	262	26,737.00
PARK	2,770	234,087.72
PETROLEUM	40	2,934.50
PHILLIPS	624	56,699.70
PONDERA	1,046	102,826.05
POWDER RIVER	129	13,112.00
POWELL	1,217	106,872.99
PRAIRIE	221	20,625.92
RAVALLI	5,764	497,491.69
RICHLAND	592	53,166.14
ROOSEVELT	913	74,544.23
ROSEBUD	1,327	118,434.81
SANDERS	2,893	263,986.39
SHERIDAN	173	14,989.00
SILVER BOW	6,753	623,207.26
STILLWATER	839	82,052.00
SWEET GRASS	198	21,094.37
TETON	776	71,719.22
TOOLE	872	86,877.39
TREASURE	63	7,042.00
VALLEY	1,571	145,924.92
WHEATLAND	80	7,457.65
WIBAUX	82	7,382.00
YELLOWSTONE	19,979	2,001,213.98
INTRASTATE	145,060	13,340,300.53
INTERSTATE	5,181	507,317.68
TOTAL	150,241	13,847,618.21

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1980	1979	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	17,406	16,435	971	5.9
Continued Claims[1/]	179,133	172,528	6,605	3.8
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	150,241	147,983	2,258	1.5
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$13,847,617	$12,653,644	$1,193,973	9.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$96.33	$89.30	$7.03	7.9

MONTHLY

	March 1980	Feb. 1980	March 1979	Change From Year Ago Net	Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	3,918	4,096	3,521	397	11.3
Continued Claims[1/]	53,333	61,785	58,026	-4,693	- 8.1
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	50,078	51,752	50,908	-830	- 1.6
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$4,650,081	$4,784,355	$4,326,861	$323,220	7.5
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$97.28	$96.51	$89.11	$8.17	9.2
Trust Fund Balance	$10,506,757*	$14,547,295*	-$2,662,331**	$13,169,088	494.6

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to* $7,084,089.00
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to* $10,484,089.00

This month the number of initial claims filed changed very little from last month and last year- nearly 400 more than a year ago but about 200 less than in February. Notably fewer continued claims were recorded in March than in either February, or March 1979. Cumulative totals for both initial and continued claims exceeded last year's figures, though by a smaller amount than in February.

For the first three months of 1980 and 1979 the number of benefit payments varied only about 4,000 from lowest to highest. The count this month decreased from both last month and last year. The amount of benefits paid in March dropped off slightly from February but a 7.5% rise from last year was noted. Both number and amount of benefits for January through March gained over the same period in 1979.

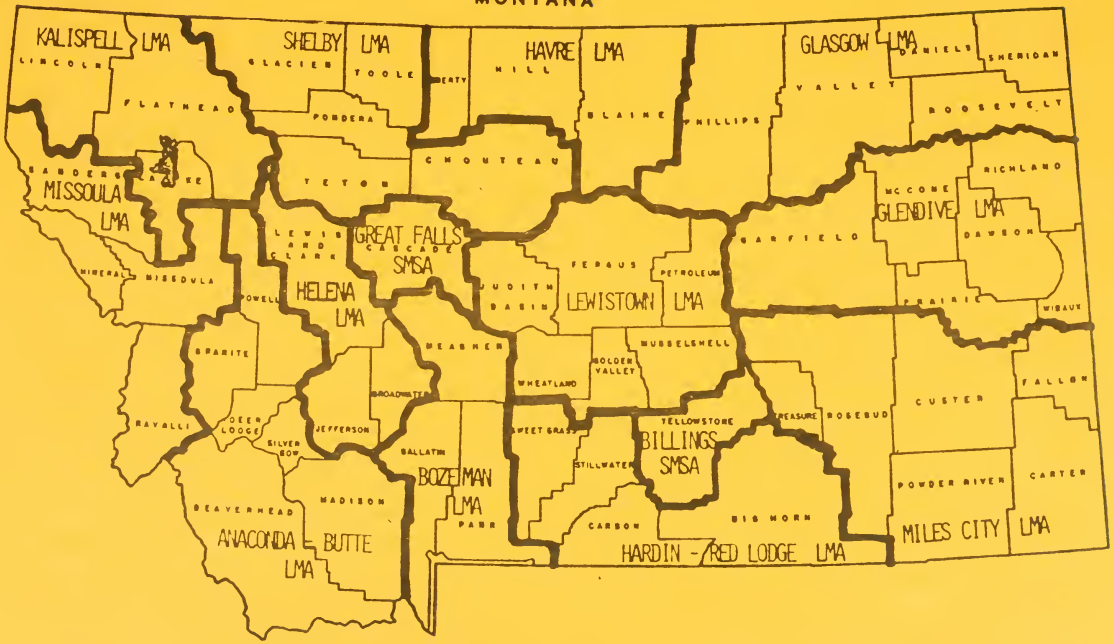
The Average Weekly Benefit Amount was a trifle more than last month, with the usual marked increase over the AWBA last year reflecting the impact of higher wages and this year's maximum benefit amount. The year-to-date figure continued to surpass that of the corresponding months a year ago.

Substantially more of the Trust Fund Balance was disbursed this month than last month, but it dropped by nearly the same amount from February to March of 1979, indicating an annual occurrence. Unless the economic picture becomes darker, the fund should start to grow again with the advent of spring. Compared with a year ago when it showed a loss, this month's balance is not too unfavorable.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



MONTANA EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY DIVISION
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The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 24 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.

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